Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Working paper submitted by Egypt

Egypt believes, in terms of the strengthened review process and in the context of fully implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as the three decisions and the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, that the Preparatory Committee meetings up to and including the 2000 Review Conference should engage in substantive work for the speedy and meaningful implementation of the obligations under the Treaty and the faithful fullfilment of all commitments and undertakings in the package outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

The 2000 Review Conference hence, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the 1995 decision 1 on the strengthening of the review process, should look forward as well as backward and evaluate the results of the period under review, including the implemenation of undertakings of the States Parties under the Treaty and identify the areas in which, and the means through which further progress should be sought in the future.

To date, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East is far from being implemented. The working paper submitted by Algeria on behalf of the States Members of the League of Arab States clearly reflects the current state of affairs of the staggering situation prevailing in the Middle East. Moreover, the working paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of NAM contains specific draft recommendations related to the Resolution on the Middle East to be considered by the Preparatory Committee. Furthermore, the working paper submitted by Egypt to the second

session of the Preparatory Committee held in Geneva in 1998 has identified the areas in which, and the means through which further progress should be sought and achieved for the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East.

Egypt considers that it is now incumbent on this third session of the Preparatory Committee to seriously address the issues pertaining to the full implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East. To this end, Egypt views the following draft recommendations as essential elements to be included in the report of the Preparatory Committee to the 2000 Review Conference at which the establishment of a subsidiary body to its main committee II is imperative for indepth consideration and the recommendation of concrete proposals aimed at the full implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East:

Articles I and II

- The States Parties note with deep concern the alarm expressed over the nuclear capabilities of Israel, which continues to operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and persists in pursuing its ambiguous nuclear programmes and policies.

- The States Parties reaffirm their commitment to the provisions of articles I and II of the Treaty, both of which allow for no exceptions whatsoever, and are binding on them in times of peace as well as in times of war.

- The nuclear-weapon-States solemnly undertake not to transfer nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or devices directly or indirectly to Israel, and further undertake not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce Israel to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices under any circumstances whatsoever.

Article III

- The States Parties remain convinced that the universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty is a vital step towards strengthening barriers against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to this end they call upon Israel, the only State in the Middle East that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not placed all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards, to acceed to the Treaty immediately and unconditionally without further delay.

Article IV

- The States Parties undertake to suspend all forms and any kind of cooperation or assistance which would contribute to the nuclear programme of Israel, and hereby declare their commitment to exclusively prohibit the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices, and the extension of know how or assistance, in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to Israel, as long as it remains a non-party to the Treaty and has not placed all its nuclear facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards.

- The States Parties further call upon Israel to acceed to the Treaty, to accept IAEA full-scope safeguards and to pledge itself not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices.

Article VII

- The States Parties welcome the consensus reached in the United Nations General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security. They urge all States directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

- The States Parties reaffirm the provisions of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and also reaffirm their determination to strive towards its speedy implementation. They undertake to extend their fullest cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from nuclear weapons as an important prior step towards the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction.